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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

3 March 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. FRANK C. WISNER, CHAIRMAN, AD HOC COMMITTEE
OF REPRESENTATIVES OF BOARD MEMBERS, PSB

SUBJECT: Mr. Gordon Gray's Report to the President dated
22 February 1952

I have read your memorandum of 29 February 1952 to General Smith on the above subject. As Department of Defense member of the Ad Hoc Committee appointed by the PSB on 27 February 1952, I submit herewith my views thereon for the consideration of the Committee.

Prior to reading your memorandum, I studied and made notes upon Mr. Gray's report in order to formulate views initially uninfluenced by your own. With differences in accentuation only, I concur in your Section I, Analysis and General Conclusions Relative to Mr. Gray's Report.

With respect to Section II, Recommendations, my first reaction was to concur in the publication of a carefully edited report but only in the event that Mr. Gray would agree to adopt as his own the text acceptable to the Board. I have now concluded that this procedure is inadvisable for a number of reasons. It is procedurally complicated. It would doubtless give rise to irresponsible official gossip implying the suppression of warranted criticism. After the deletion of various critical details, provocative statements and specific administrative recommendations - all of which should be reserved for internal consideration - the report would be well emasculated. Furthermore, since security requirements already prevent the disclosure of the full range of important activities, the residual report would consist largely of well phrased but familiar abstractions. Certainly the report would be wholly inadequate to allay criticisms of those individuals in Congress and elsewhere who demand ill-considered action. Even the disclosure of all strategically sound covert activities would not satisfy these extremists.

OSD REVIEW COMPLETED

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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I therefore recommend:

- a. against publication of the Report and, instead,
- b. that it be referred by the President as a classified document to the Board for its information and for the implementation of such parts of Mr. Gray's recommendations as may be appropriate and,
- c. that the Board give consideration to the advisability of recommending to the President that he make a statement in justification of the national psychological effort independently of the Gray Report but perhaps including the substance of its more constructive features.

With respect to your Section III, Proposed Changes, in the event it should be decided to publish the Report, I concur in your general remarks.

In order to simplify the relation of specific changes I would propose to your own, I enclose herewith an Annex, numbered identically with your Annex A, with my comments referring in each instance to your specific proposal.


John Magruder

Enclosure

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TOP SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

ANNEX

Proposed Changes

Paragraph 1. Concur

2. Concur

3 and 4. Concur - except that in paragraph 4 beginning at line 6 of the proposed statement change to read:
"....President issued a directive designating some of the highest officials of the Government as members of a Board to provide"

5. It would be difficult to include any impressive details without getting into security complications.

6. Concur

7. I concur - minor modifications would suffice. However I do not agree with that part of the last sentence which would diffuse the attack to Communism generally rather than concentrating on the Kremlin.

8. Concur

9. Change last two sentences to read: "Yet at the same time, they were causing misgivings in many parts of the world because the distortions of Communist propaganda made them appear to some people to be manifestations of a new imperialism. The 'reservoir of good will' for the United States which had existed in many countries thus was being visibly depleted."

10. Agree to inversion but proposed language could be improved.

11. Concur

12. This seems ultra-cautious. However I hold no brief for employing ugly PW jargon in doing what we are attempting to do.

13. I think this colloqu^{alism} furnishes a breather in the monotonous dignified tone.

TOP SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

14. Concur
15. Concur re parenthetical matter. I don't find the degree of specificity harmful security-wise. I would modify the casual language referring to the procedures of the Board, specifically re luncheons.
16. Concur
17. Concur